

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 7 and 8 stand rejected. Claims 2-6 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by **Fudeyasu** (U.S. Publication No. US 2002/0021391). For the reasons set forth in detail below, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit herewith a verified translation of the certified copy of the priority document, Japanese Application No. 2000-402150, to perfect the claim for priority. The present application claims foreign priority benefit of JP 2000-402150, filed December 28, 2000. Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 119 foreign priority date of this application (December 28, 2000) antedates the effective date of the **Fudeyasu** reference, which is January 26, 2001. Therefore, in view of the submission of the verified translation of the certified copy of the priority document, it is respectfully submitted that the **Fudeyasu** is removed as an effective reference against the present application.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 7 under §102(e) is respectfully requested.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Acknowledged Prior Art (AAPA) in view of **Fudeyasu**. Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of **Shimizu** (JP 4-207897).

With respect to the rejection over AAPA in view of **Fudeyasu**, it is submitted that in view of the submission of the verified translation of the certified copy of the priority document **Fudeyasu** is no longer an effective prior art reference. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1 and 8 over AAPA in view of **Fudeyasu** is no longer proper and should be withdrawn. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over AAPA in view of **Fudeyasu** is respectfully requested.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over AAPA in view of **Shimizu**, for the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner cites Fig. 7 of the present application in combination with **Shimizu**. The Examiner applies Fig. 7 to teach the data sequence conversion circuit being located between a jaggy correction circuit and a line-like printhead (LED array head 26), as recited in claim 8. The Examiner applies **Shimizu** to teach the “first parallel shift register,” “second parallel shift register,” and “the switch matrix.”

Shimizu discloses a first serial-to-parallel shift register 11 that receives input data DATA, and loads the data in parallel to a second parallel-to-serial shift register 12. The parallel-to-serial shift register 12 shifts the bits synchronously with a clock 17 to a switch matrix 10.

Moreover, the shift register 13 receives serial data and transfers that data in parallel to a shift register 14 which outputs the data serially.

Thus, the **Shimizu** reference does not disclose or suggest the claimed first and second parallel shift registers. In contrast, **Shimizu** discloses serial-to-parallel and parallel-to-serial shift registers, but not parallel shift registers.

Further, **Shimizu** does not disclose or suggest a switch matrix outputting data input to the shift register in a distributed fashion in accordance with a rule selected by a control signal from a plurality of predetermined rules. The switch matrix 10 of **Shimizu** does not operate in accordance with a rule selected by a control signal from a plurality of predetermined rules, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, in view of the above noted deficiencies of **Shimizu**, it is submitted that the combination of AAPA and **Shimizu** does not result in the invention as recited in claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 8 under §103 over AAPA in view of **Shimizu** are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Application No. 09/839,370
Group Art Unit: 2861

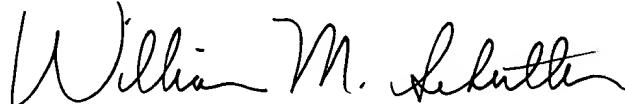
Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Attorney Docket No.: 010570

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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